

whether or not authentication is given;

a fourth step of determining an authenticated external apparatus as an apparatus to be responded to thereafter by the intelligent interconnecting device and causing the intelligent interconnecting device to judge whether or not this access is the first access, when it is judged in the third step that the authentication is given;

a fifth step of causing the intelligent interconnecting device to extract and store a source IP address included in a packet which is received from the external apparatus in the authentication processing when this access of the external apparatus is judged to be the first access in the fourth step;

a sixth step of determining the external apparatus as an apparatus not to be responded to thereafter by the intelligent interconnecting device when the external apparatus is judged not to be authenticated in the third step;

a seventh step of causing the intelligent interconnecting device to judge whether or not the source IP address of the external apparatus giving the access thereto is identical with the stored source IP address when this access is judged not

to be the first access in the first step;

an eighth step of causing the intelligent interconnecting device to judge whether or not the source IP address is within a predetermined valid period when the source IP address of the external apparatus is judged to be identical with the stored source IP address in the seventh step;

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10 a ninth step of determining the external apparatus having the source IP address which is judged to be within the predetermined valid period as an apparatus to be responded to thereafter by the intelligent interconnecting device and causing the intelligent interconnecting device to execute the steps beginning from the second step, when the source IP address of the external apparatus is judged to be within the predetermined valid period in the eighth step; and

20 a tenth step of determining the external apparatus whose source IP address is judged to be nonidentical or is judged to be not within the predetermined valid period as an apparatus not to be responded to thereafter by the intelligent interconnecting device and storing in said storage section the source IP address of the external apparatus which is determined as the apparatus not

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to be responded to, when the source IP address of
the external apparatus is judged to be nonidentical
with the stored source IP address in the seventh
step or is judged to be not within the predetermined
5 valid period in the eighth step.

24. An intelligent interconnecting device having
a function of repeating a packet which is
transmitted/received between a plurality of
10 computers and being structured to be controllable
by an external apparatus based on a TCP/IP protocol,
the intelligent interconnecting device
comprising:

a LAN trunk line interfacing section having
15 an interface function with a LAN trunk line;

a port interfacing section having an interface
function with a terminal connected thereto;

a storage section for storing a program and
data therein; and

20 a central controlling section for controlling
operations of said LAN trunk line interfacing
section, said port interfacing section, and said
storage section,

wherein said central controlling section
25 executes the following steps: